

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

28. (NEW) A fragment of v-IL-6 that binds an interleukin-6 ("IL-6") receptor and consisting of the amino acid sequence (residues 87-105 of SEQ ID NO:2) GFNETSCLKKLADGFFEFE.

29. (NEW) The fragment of claim 28, which binds to a human IL-6 receptor.